

VZCZCXRO4796  
OO RUEHIK  
DE RUEHNO #0461 2931511  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 201511Z OCT 09 ZDK  
FM USMISSION USNATO  
TO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 1266  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3497  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 0001  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0695  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0849  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 6532  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0682  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0475  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1006  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0098  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1067  
RHCUAAA/USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USDELMC BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: NATO SYG WELCOMES AFGHAN ELECTION DECISION

1. (U) On October 20, NATO Secretary General Rasmussen issued a statement welcoming the decision to hold a second round of elections in Afghanistan. He said the decision showed respect for the democratic process and institutions in Afghanistan. He indicated his hope that the second round would achieve higher standards than had been in evidence for the first round, stressing that this was needed for the legitimacy of the government. He urged all Afghans to exercise their right to vote, noting that NATO forces would work with Afghan security forces to ensure the security of the elections.

2. (U) The full text of the Secretary General's statement follows:

BEGIN TEXT

20 Oct. 2009

Press Release: (2009) 151

Statement by the Secretary General on the Afghan elections

The decision to hold a second round of elections shows respect for the democratic process and institutions in Afghanistan, and I welcome that. The necessary steps must be taken to ensure that the conduct of the next round of voting achieves a higher standard than we saw in the first round, so that the Government that results from this process has legitimacy in the eyes of the Afghan people.

I urge all Afghans to exercise their hard-won democratic right to vote, despite threats or intimidation by the enemies of the country. NATO has the forces in place to help ensure security for the next round of elections, in support of Afghan security forces.

END TEXT

DAALDER